

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
June 12, 2013

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Julie Sherman, Paul Shapiro, Vera Ward, Matt Hart, Susannah Everett, Don Hoyle (guest), Coleen Spurlock (guest), George and Joyce Rawitscher (guests), Linda Painter (staff), Jennifer Kaufman (staff), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 by chair Stoddard.

Introductions were made. Julia Sherman announced that she is retiring from EO Smith High School in June, but Shawn Santasiere will replace her as the Region 19 representative to the committee.

The April 10 and May 8, 2013 meeting minutes were accepted on a motion by Shapiro/Sherman.

Kaufman and Painter reported that there will be an open house on June 18 from 4 pm to 9 pm at the Buchanan Auditorium to review the planned development areas and draft strategy reports on housing, economic development and agriculture that have been shaped by the Mansfield Tomorrow visioning sessions and focus groups. It is anticipated that the draft documents will be reviewed by the Mansfield Tomorrow advisory group in late summer followed by the Planning and Zoning Commission in the fall. A text campaign has begun. Residents have been asked to text a reply about whether they would use sidewalks on Route 195. A few more questions, each with a different focus, will be posed during the campaign.

There was discussion about how to proceed to prepare for climate change. The Keene New Hampshire Climate Preparedness case study was circulated. Painter stated that a number of the actions noted in the case study are going to be included in the proposed zoning regulations revision. Hart expressed interest in developing a climate action plan for town government with the possibility of expanding it to the larger community. Painter stated that there is a regional hazard mitigation plan. The committee will proceed by inviting storm water expert Mike Dietz, a representative of the regional hazard mitigation plan and possibly the administrator of the Keene, NH climate program, to future meetings. The committee sees its role in contributing input to existing initiatives. It was noted that the creation of a climate resource center, funded by NOAA, was passed by the state legislature this session.

Hart reported that an energy and sustainability management team, which includes representatives from the schools, the town's energy consultant, Chris Ram, and key staff, will begin meeting quarterly. Hart, along with the tax collector and energy consultant, is evaluating the C-PACE program. Authored by the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority (CEFIA), C-PACE communities allow businesses to make energy efficiency upgrades that can be repaid through their property tax bill. To enable C-PACE, an agreement must be signed between CEFIA and Mansfield. Stoddard pointed out that many CT municipalities have adopted the program, including Windham, Coventry and Tolland and this program would make it easier for landlords of multi-family units to make energy efficiency improvements.

Walton circulated a draft resolution to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. The Center for Biodiversity has asked that the Town of Mansfield adopt this resolution urging the President and EPA to support greenhouse gas emissions reductions. The committee decided that a better use of effort would be to work

on greenhouse gas reductions within Mansfield, especially since the president and EPA are already in support of reductions.

Walton stated that Miller could not attend the meeting because he is finishing a micro-grid grant that would allow the Mansfield Depot campus fuel cell to operate during power outages and provide refuge for the surrounding neighborhood.

Walton reported that there have been 400 requests for site visits under the Solarize program and 32 contracts signed. UConn hosted a Solarize meeting where 50 people attended and resulted in several leads. Solar installer, C-TEC Solar, is applying to the ZREC program, which if selected, would enable them to offer to the Town purchase power agreements for installations on the parking garage, public works garage and at the Middle School. The engineering intern is helping prepare the Bike Friendly Community grant, which is due July 13, 2013. On June 24, 2013 the Town Council will be asked to sign the Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge. The Pledge makes the commitment to reduce municipal energy consumption by 20% and increase use of renewable energy by 20%. Painter stated that the Community Children's Center has applied for a solar array through the Neighborhood Assistance Act. Mansfield Hollow Hydro has applied for a building permit. The Solid Waste Advisory Committee is evaluating the process of becoming a "zero waste community".

The next meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2013.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton